

# The NeASA Flyer

Newsletter of the Northeastern Air Sports Association - Chapter 107

## In this Issue:

- Club Details
- Welcome, Eaglets! Welcome, Kit!
- Ginormous Wind Sock!
- Work Parties!
- Farewell, Tom! Farewell, Chad!
- Memorial Day Super Flight!



## The Wind Sock that Ate Ellenville!

**Dave Hopkins** has given us a new wind sock for gentle blowing days. He crafted it from Cathleen's old parachute, using practically the ENTIRE parachute to fashion a wind sock that you can see from outer space! No more excuses for downwind landings! It is kept in the glider storage trailer toward the back next to the right wall and should be taken out when needed and put into the pipe support that is driven into the dirt pile near the entrance bridge. Use liberally - all pilots within a 25 mile radius will benefit! It is a true wonder of the modern world!

*Above left and below: Ric and Cathleen take turns posing with the giant wind sock.*



**Club News:** As you may already be aware, our conscientious club treasurer, **Carl DiPiero**, has been hard at work over the miserable spring months digging through legal records and organizing the financial books for the NeASA Club. Based on his investigations into the records, we are now making a change to the club abbreviation. He advises us to avoid using "NASA" in favor of always using the designation "NeASA" whenever abbreviating the club name. Further we have corrected the Chapter number used on previous newsletters to "107", per the paperwork unearthed by Carl. Finally, you must be a paid-up member of the NeASA Club to launch from the North Knob, so all you H2s out there especially take note! Dues is \$75 for the year and a very good investment!

## NEW EAGLETS AT MOUNTAIN WINGS

*Mountain Wings welcomes a new batch of Eagle Package participants this year, and we look forward to seeing them on the training hill, in the*

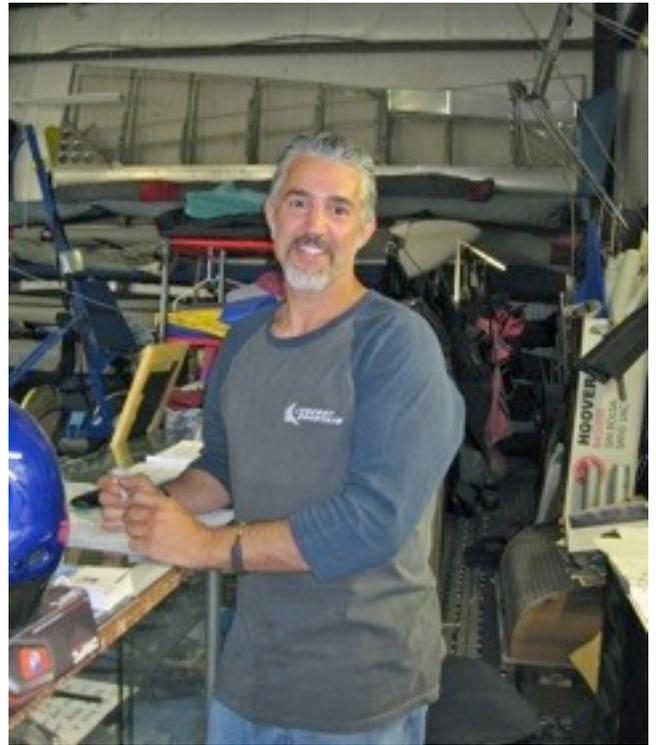
*simulator, in the air, at a BBQ - everywhere integrated into the great Ellenville flying community.*



**Left:** new eaglets Russell and Alden from Vermont, Luis from Nj. **Right:** Luis on the training hill, flanked by his instructors, Greg Black and Kit Martin.

WELCOME KIT MARTIN TO MOUNTAIN WINGS

The end of April saw the much anticipated arrival of Kit Martin to Ellenville to join Greg Black on the training hill as an instructor at Mountain Wings. Kit, who is from Texas, has quickly become acclimated to the members of the Ellenville flying community and is building his understanding of local conditions as the basis for guiding his students. A future issue of this newsletter will feature a sit-down interview with Kit so we can learn all his dark secrets and scandal-ridden past. For now this is just a quick intro - Welcome Kit!



KIT'S INTRODUCTION TO ONE H2

*Back in March Tom Galvin suggested that his band of H2s send individual summaries of their flying history to Kit Martin, before he arrived in Ellenville, to prepare him to take on instruction at Mountain Wings. Below is one of these introductory messages. Can you guess who it is?!*



*Mystery H2  
(or maybe it's no mystery!)*

“Hi Kit - I look forward to meeting you. Sorry I missed you the weekend you were in Ellenville but I abandoned my hg friends and went skiing instead. That's the kind of person I am -- selfish and unreliable. But because I am so devastatingly beautiful (see photo) I get away with it. Anyway, it's all about me -- me, me, me.

“The other thing you need to know is that I fly like a bird - though frankly I wish it wasn't a chicken. And I already have hours and hours of time logged. Ok so some of that represents

driving time up from Jersey and of course there are the many hang waiting hours I recorded -- but some of it is actual air time.

“The most important thing you need to know about my flying is that I LOOK GOOD doing it! Whenever I swoop down over the LZ everyone screams with excitement at the sight of me coming in. Or maybe it's terror - I don't know, it sounds the same.

“Anyway my St. Christopher medal has been a handy passenger on all my flights -- we've made it to the landing

zone at least 95% of the time, and on all but one occasion on the same day as I launched!

“So you can see that I am an exceptional pilot and I look forward to teaching you a few advanced techniques, like my famous belly bounce downwind landing that I've perfected over my 25 years as an H2.

“Most important of all, I can teach you how to hypnotize Greg so he will only remember the things you did well. See you in May!”

## WORK PARTIES!



On one of the rare nice days of the spring **John Reeves, Timo Friedrich, and Josh McMillan** went to the North Knob to tame the overgrown brambles just below the edge of launch. After a little time but much exertion the trio put a serious dent in the advance of spiky nature around launch. Thanks guys!



Over the Memorial Day weekend there were consecutive work parties to repair and extend the road to launch. On Sunday **Dave Hopkins** - supervised by **Cathleen** - felled trees and used them to create a barrier to rolling stones along the side of the road. **Wayne**, meanwhile, manned his magic machine - the Neckles Atomic Excavator - to smooth over the ruts in the road and dig up a

few giant monoliths deposited by a glacier. The following day Wayne returned with Dave, Timo, **Nikolay Stoyanov, and Steve Bailer** to get serious about extracting the giant boulders that had the nerve to stand in the way of our road - even though they were there first by about a billion years! But the excavator, a jackhammer, picks, and a sledgehammer with wedges pretty effectively pounded the boulders senseless and so everyone went off to fly!

Stay tuned for information about upcoming work parties - planned or spontaneous - that will be formed this season to drive further progress on the launch road.

*Top: John does battle with the sharp brambles below launch; Bottom: Timo, John, and Josh declare (temporary) victory*



### THE LAUNCH ROAD - MAY 30, 2011

**Left:** Steve (jackhammer), Wayne (excavator), Dave (sledge hammer), Nikolay (something), and Timo (pick) all wail away at the ancient and enormous boulders lying just below the surface and directly in the way of the road. **Right:** Nickolay and Timo position a culvert that will be used to protect the road from erosion due to runoff. Note that the surface has been restored to smoothness by Wayne and his trusty excavator!

A MEMORIAL DAY BBQ AND SENDOFF TO TWO GOOD FRIENDS!

On Saturday, May 29 the Ellenville flying community came together to send off our friends **Tom Galvin, Jr.** and **Chad Wildman**. Tom, as everyone knows, has been a precious asset to his students, both on the training hill and on launch, and a great friend and advocate of the sport. We wish him and **Sarah** much happiness in

Colorado. Chad is off to Ohio and he will leave a deep hole in our hearts as well. All we can say to both of you now is - make room on the couch - we're coming to visit! (And don't think we won't!)



MEMORIAL DAY SUPER FLY

Monday, May 30

A truly memorable holiday weekend was made even more special by its final chapter. After a supremely hot day the late afternoon brought perfect WNW breezes of soarable magnitude - and the Mountain Wings contingent made the most of them! Around 4pm **Wayne** and **Kit** tested the air just as **Greg** began launching a flock of H2s from the North Knob. **Cathleen**,

**Nickolay**, **Timo**, **Steve**, **Josh**, and **Ric** all had great flights - some soaring significantly for the first time. All were chattering happily on the radio and everyone landed safely - Wayne showing how it's done with real flair by cruising into the training hill. There was a twinge of regret that not everyone was on hand to share the sky, but we know their chance for a super flight will come soon. Greg - thanks again for sending us off!



*Cathleen poses with instructor/miracle worker, Greg Black*



*Cathleen, Steve, Timo, and Nikolay happy before the flight. They were even happier later on!*

**Contributors**

**Cathleen O'Connell** (aka, "Flarabella Goodlanding") compiles and edits this newsletter on an irregular frequency based primarily on the availability of content.

Contributions of photos, articles, ideas, event information, links to videos of interest (and appropriate for all ages!) are solicited from all in the flying family - pilots, students, and non-flying friends.

Please contact Cathleen at [cathocon@verizon.net](mailto:cathocon@verizon.net)



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